

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, 28 years ago, President George H.W. Bush signed the Americans with Disabilities Act. I was proud to be a lead sponsor of that legislation and to be on hand for the bill signing on this day 28 years ago, together with former Democratic Whip Tony Coelho; Representatives Steve Bartlett and Jim Sensenbrenner; and Senators Tom Harkin, Ted Kennedy, Bob Dole, ORRIN HATCH, and Lowell Weicker. Other individuals present were:

President George H.W. Bush; Dave Capozzi; Justin Dart; Yoshiko Dart; Chai Feldblum; Lex Frieden; Boyden Gray (Counsel to President Bush); Anthony Imperato; Arlene Mayerson; Paul Marchand; ED MARKEY; JOHN MCCAIN; Normal Mineta; Ralph Neas; Katie Neas; Carolyn Ocelnik; Becky Ogle; Lee Page; Liz Savage; Bobby Silverstein (Hatch); Melissa Schulman; Cheryl Sensenbrenner; Bob Williams; John Wodatch, Esq.; and Pat Wright.

We worked hard to shepherd that legislation to passage with strong bipartisan support. The ADA has reshaped the landscape of our country for millions of people living with disabilities, and, indeed, for many millions throughout the world. It has done more than build ramps or widen doorways.

It has changed perceptions and brought greater understanding, not only to the abilities of those who were previously excluded, but also to the challenges of living with a disability.

I am glad we have been able to come together to strengthen the ADA over the years in the same spirit of bipartisanship that we had at its inception.

Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate this anniversary each year, we rededicate ourselves to the project of protecting the civil rights of Americans with disabilities and expanding opportunity, equality, and access for all of our people.

TERRITORY VOTING RIGHTS

(Ms. BORDALLO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a constitutional amendment that will fix a gross injustice within our democracy and finally provide American citizens living in the territories the right to vote for President and Vice President of the United States.

Every American should be alarmed that over 4 million of their fellow citizens are denied the right to have a say in the selection of their President. The people of Guam and other U.S. territories are patriotic Americans who contribute to every aspect of American life.

We are Americans by birth, bear U.S. passports, and support and defend the Constitution of the United States—many with their lives. Yet, still Americans who reside in the territories are unable to vote for our President.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce this constitutional amendment so that

every American is finally able to cast a vote for President and Vice President, just as the Founding Fathers intended.

Casting a ballot for President is a right for all Americans, and this amendment is a step toward our Constitution's solemn promise to form a more perfect union.

□ 1230

HONORING JOHN MASON ON HIS RETIREMENT

(Mr. CORREA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John Mason on his retirement.

John was born in 1927 in Madrid, Nebraska, and spent his childhood on a family farm in Nevada before moving to Los Angeles at the age of 22 to fulfill his dream of becoming an artist. He enrolled in the Los Angeles Institute of Art where he collaborated with other artists and visionaries.

It was through clay that he first found the tools to realize his vision, and he quickly became an innovator in the field of ceramic sculpting. His creations pushed the limits of what clay could do and forever changed how artists thought about the material's possibilities.

After moving to New York in the 1970s, Mr. Mason expanded his artistic pallet further, working with firebricks and welded steel pieces to construct even more abstract sculptures in his future career.

Mr. Mason has been recognized by countless venues around the world. His passion for making art is unmatched throughout the world. His contributions to the field of sculpting and the many young artists he has inspired make me proud to honor John Mason today.

RECOGNIZING FORMER STATE SENATOR ED ZIPPERER

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize former Georgia State Senator Ed Zipperer.

Senator Zipperer was a dedicated public servant who served coastal Georgia in numerous ways. He was the president of the Chatham County Farm Bureau for 40 years. He also served 8 years in the State Senate representing coastal Georgia. One of his many contributions includes the new State parks he brought to the area.

This July in Chatham County, lawmakers named the 204 interchange bridge as the Edward H. Zipperer Bridge, a fitting addition to his legacy because of his work on the assembly's transportation committee.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to see this great Georgia public servant, Senator

Zipperer, get the recognition he deserves.

Senator Zipperer, you are a dear friend, a great Georgian, and I am grateful for your service.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA STANDS FOR THE RULE OF LAW AND DEMOCRACY

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, some Members of this House have embarrassed themselves, our Congress, and our country by bringing a baseless impeachment resolution against Rod Rosenstein, Deputy Attorney General of the United States of America.

Mr. Rosenstein has done his job lawfully and appropriately according to Hoyle. They want him to release information which, if he does it, will be releasing matters that are classified and confidential and could jeopardize the investigation that Robert Mueller is leading and Mr. Rosenstein is over and harm that investigation.

Prosecutors will not release their information of who their witnesses are, where they are going, or whom they have interviewed. They can't and should not give away sources and methods. To do so would be in dereliction of duty.

To file impeachment resolutions is to hurt Mr. Rosenstein, to hurt the investigation, hurt Mr. Mueller, and keep the truth from being known by the American public. If they weren't concerned about the truth, they wouldn't be going after the investigator so much. You do that when you can't deal with the data.

I hope when we come back Mr. Mueller is still safe in his job, Mr. Rosenstein is still safe in his job, and the United States of America still stands for the rule of law and democracy.

God bless America.

CONGRESS FOR DUMMIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Speaker, despite their united control of Congress, my Republican friends seem to think there is nothing they can do when Donald Trump acts in a matter that is contrary to our laws and our values. Here is what they have been saying:

Congressman RYAN COSTELLO: There is nothing we can do to stop the President, let alone this President, from saying what he thinks or what he wants to say.

Speaker RYAN on immigration policy: The last thing I want to do is bring a bill out here that I know the President won't support.

Lastly, again, Speaker RYAN: Every morning I wake up in my office and

scroll through Twitter to see which tweets that I will have to pretend I didn't see later on.

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GALLEGO. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, after reading these quotes, it seems like one thing is pretty clear—our colleagues across the aisle have forgotten how Congress works.

Mr. GALLEGO. But, TED, did you know that there are actually concrete steps the majority party can take to exercise its power over the administration and hold it accountable for its actions?

Mr. TED LIEU of California. I did know that. It is called congressional oversight authority.

Mr. GALLEGO. That is right. When the U.S. Constitution was drafted in 1787, it included checks and balances that allow the legislative branch, us, to oversee the executive branch, the President. It is part of what makes our Nation great.

Mr. TED LIEU of California. But Congressman GALLEGO, why haven't we seen more of these checks and balances in action?

Mr. GALLEGO. That is a great question. Maybe our friends in the majority have forgotten how to use their power.

Mr. TED LIEU of California. That is why we would like to enter into the RECORD Article I of the United States Constitution.

Mr. GALLEGO. Great idea. So, let's start with a new class that we call Welcome to Congressional Oversight 101 or, as I like to call it, Congress for Dummies.

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Okay, so lesson one, Congress can actually pass legislation.

Mr. GALLEGO. Isn't that hard?

Mr. TED LIEU of California. No. You just need 218 votes in the House and 51 votes in the Senate.

Mr. GALLEGO. What are some of the issues that Congress can pass legislation on, TED?

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Almost anything. As Speaker RYAN has stated, he thinks we need legislation to prevent the separation of families, of kids who were ripped away from their parents by the Trump administration. We agree. Democrats have introduced the Keep Families Together Act. That has not gotten a vote, and we think we should have a vote on that bill.

In addition, there are numerous pieces of legislation that can make our economy better, that can help our healthcare, make sure that we deal with the opioid crisis, and numerous pieces of legislation such as investing in infrastructure, none of which has gotten a vote so far.

Mr. GALLEGO. TED, for example, could we actually be protecting the Special Counsel from being fired by the President?

Mr. TED LIEU of California. We could do that, too.

There are several pieces of legislation as well that the Republican-controlled majority will not let us have a vote on.

Mr. GALLEGO. I believe there is an actual bill that has been introduced, specifically, that RYAN could actually bring to the floor, to protect the Special Counsel and not just talk about protecting the Special Counsel.

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Exactly. It is called the Special Counsel Independence and Integrity Act, which has both Republican and Democratic support in both the House and the Senate.

Mr. GALLEGO. So why hasn't Speaker RYAN or the Republicans actually passed this bill?

Mr. TED LIEU of California. That is a great question. That is why we are here today, to explain to America that the majority is recessing for 5 weeks without completing its work on behalf of the American people. That is shameful.

Mr. GALLEGO. We certainly have brought this up, and we will continue to be pushing this bill until it comes to the floor.

Let's move on to lesson 2.

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Another thing Congress gets to do is, we get to hold hearings. The Judiciary Committee, on which I sit, has not held a single hearing on any of the issues that are important to Americans. Instead, we have done two hearings on whether groups like Diamond and Silk get enough Facebook likes. We also held a hearing on—are you ready for this? Hillary Clinton's emails.

Mr. GALLEGO. It is important to remember the congressional committee chairman gets to decide what topics they hold hearings on.

So are you telling me the Judiciary Committee chairman is more interested in Hillary Clinton's emails from 2015 or maybe 2016 than currently dealing with attacks on our democracy from Russia, from Putin, or trying to figure out how we have basically abandoned and orphaned 2,600 families at the border?

Mr. TED LIEU of California. It sure seems that way.

Mr. GALLEGO. So let's move on.

What is the third thing that we could be doing as Congress to actually put the executive in check, TED?

Mr. TED LIEU of California. The other thing the Constitution gives us a right to do is to issue subpoenas.

Mr. GALLEGO. Subpoenas. What is a subpoena?

You are a former Federal prosecutor. Please enlighten us, since somehow this Congress has forgotten that we could do subpoenas.

Mr. TED LIEU of California. It is very simple. It is a document that will require a witness to show up before a congressional hearing or to produce documents to congressional investigators.

Mr. GALLEGO. I don't know if you know this, TED, but there is this neat little House rule called House rule XI, clause 2. Have you heard of this?

Mr. TED LIEU of California. It sounds a little complicated.

Can you explain how it works?

Mr. GALLEGO. It is not. It is very simple. This clause allows House committees to issue subpoenas, which are legal documents that force somebody to do something, in this case either testify or give Congress documents.

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Ah, so what that means is Congress could actually subpoena the translator who was in the private 2-hour meeting between the President and Vladimir Putin of which Americans have no idea what was discussed.

Let me give an example of why that is bad for our country. Recently, the Russians attacked a U.S. general. Congressman GALLEGO and I both served on Active Duty in the military, and they are criticizing this U.S. general for allegedly not doing something that was discussed in that private, 2-hour meeting. It is certainly possible the U.S. general was wrong. It is also possible the Russians were making stuff up. We have no idea.

Congress needs to exercise its proper oversight authority so we understand what is happening between the United States and the Kremlin.

Mr. GALLEGO. Or we could do something really crazy and subpoena all the many administration officials and department heads who have gotten rich and richer by exploiting their public offices for private gain.

Mr. TED LIEU of California. I agree with you.

Why don't we now move on to our last lesson.

Mr. GALLEGO. Lesson number 4, requesting investigations.

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Okay. So just to recap, Congress can pass legislation, we can hold hearings, we can issue subpoenas, and now we can request investigations.

Mr. GALLEGO. Every committee has jurisdiction over a set of agencies. Those agencies each have something called an inspector general. These officials are responsible for investigating waste, fraud, and abuse at each agency and reporting back to Congress.

Mr. TED LIEU of California. So what can Congress do with these inspectors general?

Mr. GALLEGO. Well, TED, Congress can actually request an inspector general report.

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Ah, so, for example, we request an inspector general to look into Wilbur Ross's alleged insider trading. We can request an inspector general to look at all their waste, fraud, and abuse of various Cabinet officials in Trump's Cabinet of corruption where they are spending large amounts of taxpayers' money on luxury private travel.

We could do that, right?

Mr. GALLEGO. Exactly.

Mr. TED LIEU of California. But, again, let me just remind people that my committee that I sit on, the House Judiciary Committee, actually did exercise that power, and they used that

power to look into, again, ready for this? Hillary Clinton's emails.

The last time I checked, Hillary Clinton is not President, nor is she running for President. It is another example of the Republicans in this House who are focused on the past. Democrats are focused on the future. We want to reduce healthcare costs, address the opioid epidemic, invest in infrastructure to increase wages, and get corruption out of government.

Mr. GALLEG0. So what have we learned today?

Unfortunately, we have learned that our Republican colleagues are unwilling or afraid, either-or, to use their power vested in them by the Constitution on behalf of the American people to keep the executive in check.

□ 1245

Mr. TED LIEU of California. It is really simple. At the end of the day, Congress should not be going on recess before we do the important work on behalf of the American people.

Mr. GALLEG0. It is shameful that we are going on recess right now while we know that there are foreign adversaries targeting our elections, targeting our elected officials; we have a President that we cannot get straight answers out of, and this Republican-led Congress refuses to act.

So maybe it is time to turn control of this Chamber over to Members who are willing to hold this administration accountable.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind Members to direct all remarks to the Chair and to formally yield and reclaim time when under recognition.

STATEHOOD FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, as the House recesses, I want to call Members' attention to something I hope they will consider over the recess, this year's record attacks in the form of riders or undemocratic additions to the D.C. appropriation and how that makes the best case for statehood for the District of Columbia.

I need to report to the House the remarkable progress we are making on D.C. statehood.

We are closing in on 100 percent of Democratic House Members as cosponsors of the D.C. statehood bill. In the Senate, where the District has no representation, we have more than half of the Democratic Senators. Before this session is over, we are striving for 100 percent, certainly, of Democrats in the House and even in the Senate as we go

over to the Senate to also make the case without having any representation there. That is why I am so grateful to the Senators who have understood the importance of equality for the 700,000—equality of citizenship, I should say—for the 700,000 American citizens who live in the Nation's Capital.

In the face of that good news on statehood, you would think that there would be applause from the Congress, who sits in the home district of the District of Columbia. But recently, there have been a spate of undemocratic riders, that is, attempts to amend the District's appropriation.

What is the District's appropriation doing here?

That is the nub of the problem. It shouldn't be here.

When I first came to Congress, there were actually hearings held on the D.C. appropriation, but I have been able to make sure that that doesn't happen. Indeed, Congress has no interest in the D.C. appropriation because it is a local budget with funds from only local residents. Not a penny of it is raised in this Congress.

To be sure, we are entitled to some funds from the Congress, just like the States. But we are not talking about those funds. We are talking about the local D.C. budget passing through the House and the Senate for no other purpose except to see if somebody in either of those two bodies wants to insert undemocratic amendments, using the DC budget as the vehicle to do it. There are a number of ways to keep that from happening short of statehood, but statehood would be the end of it.

I can't decide anything about New York's budget because it is New York's budget and it doesn't have to come here. In the same way, the local budget for the District of Columbia has no business here.

It must be that Members who attempt these additions to our appropriation don't have enough to show to their own constituents for what they have accomplished during this Congress, so they look around for something to say, "I passed this."

Well, let me be clear. I have been able to keep most of these riders from passing, so I don't know why they keep trying. But as long as they keep trying, they have got someone standing in the doorway of the House to keep these antidemocratic amendments not approved by the residents of the District of Columbia but having everything to do with the District of Columbia from, indeed, passing.

And remember, this Member has a vote in committee, which may be the most important vote any Member can have. That is how I have gotten things accomplished for the District of Columbia. As it turns out, by the time a matter comes to the floor, the deal is done.

But I draw your attention to the fact that I do not have the final vote on the House floor, and yet the D.C. budget is voted on the House floor.

I do not have a vote on the House floor, although the people I represent are number one, per capita, in Federal taxes paid to support the United States of America. If anybody deserves a vote on this House floor, it is the residents of the District of Columbia who deserve that vote.

Here is another reason why the residents of the District of Columbia deserve statehood or, at the very least, a vote in the House of Representatives, the people's House: The budget of the District of Columbia is larger than the budget of 12 States; the District of Columbia has more residents than two States.

Here is the District of Columbia, here is Vermont, and here is Wyoming. Each has two Senators, but not the District of Columbia. Yet the District of Columbia has more residents than Vermont and more residents than Wyoming. You begin to see how the inequality comes up just in population.

The District has a budget surplus. It is almost \$2 billion. That is the envy of most States, that kind of large surplus, because a surplus means that you are not spending all your money. You are putting money aside, which is what, of course, is encouraged for all the States, but very few States have this kind of surplus.

We are not talking about a big poor city. The per capita personal income of the District of Columbia is higher than the per capita income of the residents of any State. Its total personal income is higher than that of seven States. Its per capita personal consumption expenditures are higher than those of any State.

Yet, each year, I have to fight abuses of home rule, as we call it, or self-government for the District of Columbia, using the fact that this budget has to pass through here in order for the District of Columbia to use its own budget.

Members rush to press what we call riders—I have indicated amendments—to our local budget. There have been about four attempts to repeal the Local Budget Autonomy Act. The District passed a Budget Autonomy Act. The House repealed it; the Senate did not.

The only quarrel we have with that is, although we have a Budget Autonomy Act, the House and the Senate continue to appropriate the District's budget after it has already been appropriated by the District of Columbia government. Nothing has ever been so redundant as the congressional appropriation, or shall we call it reappropriation, of the District's local budget.

There is the annual repeal—and I say "annual repeal" because I have been able to keep it from being repealed altogether—of the so-called Death with Dignity Act. This is a controversial piece of legislation, but eight States have this same legislation which allows a doctor to give a pharmaceutical to somebody who asks for it, has 6 months to live and is in great pain.